In a landmark opinion, the U.S. federal government has given the Quapaw Tribe permission to expand its Downstream Casino Resort into Southeast Kansas. "This federal opinion means that we can now go for it, and we will be the first to build and operate a casino in Southeast Kansas," said Quapaw Chairman John Berrey.

The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) has issued an opinion confirming that the Quapaw Tribe’s land in Cherokee County, Kansas, qualifies for gaming pursuant to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. The Quapaw Tribe is one of the few Indian tribes in the nation whose historic reservations were within the boundaries of more than one state. The Tribe’s land in Kansas is within an area of its original 1833 reservation known as the “Quapaw Strip.”

Indian gaming generally is not permitted on off-reservation trust lands acquired after the enactment of the 1988 Indian Gaming law. However, the NIGC determined that, due to its unique history, the Quapaw Tribe’s Kansas trust land falls within a statutory exception in IGRA for lands acquired within a tribe’s “last recognized reservation” in another state. This determination is the first of its kind by the NIGC, and underscores the unique jurisdictional history of the Quapaw Tribe. Chairman Berrey said that Downstream had previously announced it would like to expand onto its Cherokee County property — a section that is currently part of its main parking lot — in order to improve the experience for Downstream’s customers and to provide more jobs and economic help that will benefit the communities of Southeast Kansas.

"We are extremely pleased by the NIGC ruling," Berrey said. "We will seek a state compact on the same terms as other federally recognized tribes in Kansas — and Oklahoma — and will include 162 electronic gaming machines with room to expand its gaming. The expansion will also include a cigar lounge and a night club on the upper level. Meanwhile Downstream will complete several other significant property expansions that, combined, will push the total development investment to about $400 million. Downstream opened in July 2008, with an initial development investment of $301 million. According to one economic impact study, by 2012, Downstream had boosted the Tri-State Region’s local economy by more than $1 billion, and the resort contributes an additional $250 million to the local economy, including Cherokee County and southeast Kansas, annually. Downstream employs 1,100 people who come from all over the tri-state region.

Top and above, architectural renderings of the proposed Downstream Casino Resort’s expansion into Kansas.

Landmark NIGC Opinion, Federal Government Grants Tribe Right to Offer Gaming in Cherokee County, Kansas

Quarterly Issue - Spring, 2015

Save the Date!

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the powwow grounds on April 4 at 2:00 p.m. Bring your children up to age to 12 and Easter baskets or something to put eggs in. Egg hunts will be divided by age.

Easter baskets will be divided by age. Bring your family and enjoy the fun!
Above is what remains of the structures of St. Mary's Mission and School aft er chat has proached the tribe to request the tribe perform the cleanup project, the tribe’s Environmental Department as the fi rst-ever tribally-led environmental cleanup project. The Environmental Department and QA Services Authority (who is the tribe’s Environmental Department) has been removed from the Nelson property. And, as at the Catholic 40 site, soil amendments (chicken litter and mushroom compost) have been added to contaminated soils that were beneath the chat to help immobilize the metals. The ruins of historic buildings of St. Mary’s Mission and Catholic school were preserved during the cleanup.

Because of the success of the Catholic 40 cleanup project, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) approached the tribe to request that the tribe perform the cleanup of the adjacent private properties to the north of the Catholic 40 with EPA and ODEQ funding. Consequently, in May 2014, the tribe and the State of Oklahoma entered into a cooperative agreement (signed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, on behalf of the State, and Chairman John Berrey, on behalf of the tribe) to complete the project. Virtu ally all of the chat has been removed from the Nelson property. And, as at the Catholic 40 site, soil amendments (chicken litter and mushroom compost) will be added to contaminated soils that were beneath the chat. At least one of the residential yards is also scheduled to be replaced due to heavy metals contamination.

The Environmental Department and QA Services Authority have helped immobilize the metals. In January, NAGPRA and Archeology staff from the University of Indiana traveled to Downstream to present the pot to the tribe. The tribe is glad to have the pot with its rightful owners. The vessel is on display with other Quapaw pottery and other artifacts that were recently returned.

Above, L-R BC member T.C. Bear, THPO Director Everett Bandy, Dr. April Sievert, Director Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, University of Indiana, BC Chairman John Berrey, Dr. Jayne-Leigh Thomas, NAGPRA Director, Indiana University and Carrie Wilson, NAGPRA Director. At right, Chairman Berrey and T.C. Bear with BC Chairman John Berrey presenting the pot to the tribe. The tribe is glad to have the pot with its rightful owners. The vessel is on display with other Quapaw pottery and other artifacts that were recently returned.

Above is what remains of the structures of St. Mary’s Mission and School after chat has been removed.

**An Update from Chairman John Berrey**

Haway Ogahpah,
I have been praying that all of our people have made it through winter, and spring brings us many blessings. Winter is always such a challenge, and we have faced a very hard winter; many people have struggled. It is my prayer that spring is filled with good health and opportunity.

The last few weeks have been so wonderful for me personally. Last week, we had a history conference studying the history of our Quapaw people. I hope to have a video soon for everyone to enjoy and learn about our great history, language and culture. We had many distinguished guests that blessed us with their knowledge and understanding of our past: Judge Arnold, Dr. David Beard, Kathleen Duval, Ardina Moore, Dr. John House, Ann Early, Rise Supernaw Proc tor, Billy Proctor, and Carrie Wilson. What a couple of days! I cried, I laughed, and I was just so pleased with the few days we gathered. We had a wonderful meal, and Ranny McWatters and Russ Garber were so kind to smoke us and bless us before our meal; we enjoyed our great Quapaw food, including our own bison, all cooked and prepared by Anna McKibben.

The two days were a trip through time. We learned so much about the Quapaw people of our past and how they interacted with the French, Spanish, British and Americans. We learned about our pottery and language; we learned about genealogy and medals. It was a very great start to what we hope becomes a living project that we build upon and share for the future generations. It was a real blessing, and it made me so proud of being a Quapaw.

The greatest lesson I have learned with this concentration of scholars, elders and experts presenting the Quapaw story is that I am very proud of our Ogahpah people; we are survi vors, artisans, warriors, diplomats, farmers and super tough! Being Quapaw is being the leg acy of people that suffered so much and experienced such a dramatic change in their way of life. Our ancestors prayed for us, and they didn’t even know us. Thank you for those prayers, and I hope things we do today will help and bless the generations of Quapaws we do not know yet.

Gun-Ney-Gay,
John L. Berrey
In Memory of Wesley Valliere

Wesley E. Valliere, 92, of Kansas City, passed away November 29, 2014 at the VA Hospital in Kansas City. Wesley was born November 29, 1922 to William B. F. and Vida Lucile (Isham) Valliere in Ico, AR. He was proud to be a Quapaw Indian and attended the Seneca Indian School and graduated from Baker Springs High School. Wesley was a WWII veteran. He served in the Navy from 1943-1945 and made 13 invasions in the South Pacific as a Gunners Mate 2nd Class, serving on small boats. Wesley attended Pittsburg State, earning a Bachelors, Masters and Specialist Degree in education. He taught school for 34 years in Kansas and Oklahoma. He was united in marriage to Luella for 66 years. To this Union three daughters were born, Connie Moore, Cathy Knoblauch and Cindy Smed. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Martha Colleen Jackson, Coy Lee (Jack) Valliere, JoAnn DuPre andirus, Eddie Wallace. He is survived by his wife, his three daughters, seven grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. A Catholic burial mass and inurnment will take place in Wichita, KS at a later date.

2015 Guidelines for Social Service Assistance

From the Social Services staff:

As our tribe continues to grow, we are able to offer programs such as the Social Services Department. We have several services to assist our tribal members with their needs. As tribal members, Amanda and I can’t begin to tell you how much our utility assistance program helps our families! It allows them to pay utility bills which they may not be able to pay otherwise.

Unmet needs/School clothing has proven to be a tremendous help to all of our tribal children! The unmet needs helps children who are not yet in school and the school clothing helps children from Pre-K to 12th grade with school supplies and expenses.

Veteran’s Assistance is offered to persons who are currently serving in the military and military persons who have been honorably discharged from the military service (see our guidelines for required documentation.)

Burial Assistance is a service that is paid to the funeral home to help offset funeral expenses. To receive these services, you must be an enrolled Quapaw Tribal member. All new enrollees on the Quapaw Tribal Roll, excluding infants enrolled before his/her first birthday, are eligible for services provided by the Social Services Department. Each tribal applicant should expect to be treated with respect and care. Tribal members are expected to act in the same manner. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and corrective action will be taken.

*NOTICE*

- Please note we honor most federal and tribal holidays. You may also email Patti Rice at price@quapawtribe.com or Amanda Morton at amorton@quapawtribe.com.

**Responsibilities**

This program was formed to assist tribal members with utility assistance, veteran's assistance, burial assistance, and school clothing and supplies for our tribal members. These guidelines are set forth by the social service committee and passed by the Business Committee. This funding cycle runs from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Reminder: Please update all forms at the beginning of the new funding cycle. This includes; W-9’s, authorization to release information, legal documents for minor children, if living with someone other than tribal parent, address corrections, name changes and landlord/roommate forms and leases. NOTICE: Please note changes to school

- You may call at any time!

Please note changes to school clothing and veteran’s assistance applications.

In Memory of Raymond Griffin

Raymond Pierce Griffin of Quapaw, Okla. passed away peacefully with family present on Sunday, March 15, 2015. He was 71.

Raymond was born Dec. 31, 1943 in Quapaw, Okla. to Sidney P. and Beatrice (Arkelita) Griffin. He graduated from Lawton High School 1962 and attended Cameron College in Lawton, Okla. He received a bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma Farmers College in Sperri, Okla. He was a horse trainer and rodeo cowboy in his younger days in bull riding, bareback and saddle broncs. He was on the track and cross country team in high school. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam with the Marine Corps and was married briefly to Linda Kay Morgan of Quapaw. Raymond was preceded in death by his grandparents Chief Victor and Minnie Track Gruff, his parents Sidney P. and Beatrice (Arkelita) Griffin, his sisters and brothers-in-law, Peter V. Arkelita, Emma Belle Wyatt – Moses and Sheryl Sue Yoast, William L. Griffin I and cousins.


He loved his tribal culture and traditions and he will be greatly missed.

Funeral Services were March 18, 2015 at the Quapaw Tribal Building East of Quapaw, Okla. Pastor Billy Yoast officiated and Native American rites were done. Interment is in Griffin Cemetery East of Quapaw. Pallbearers were Albert Griffin, Samuel Mckee, Raymond Johnson, Jim Greenfeather, and Darrell Mouse.

4pm – Please note we honor most federal and tribal holidays. You may also email Patti Rice at price@quapawtribe.com or Amanda Morton at amorton@quapawtribe.com.

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See Social Services, page 5

If you have news or something you’d like to have in the newsletter to share with your fellow tribal members, please contact Anna McKibben at (918) 333-6055 or email amckibben@quapawtribe.com. The newsletter is published quarterly making some articles may seem outdated.

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Please note changes to school

See Social Services, page 5

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See Social Services, page 5
Tips to Renewing Tribal Tags from Melissa Morris, Tag Agent

Here are some important things to remember when you are renewing your tribal tags. You must submit a copy of your Oklahoma driver’s license, a copy of your tribal enrollment card, and Oklahoma insurance verification to the tribal office. Without these three items, your paperwork will be returned. You may send your information to the tribe, attention Melissa Morris, Tag Agent, P.O. Box 765, Quapaw, OK 74363 or mail to Quapaw Tribe, Attention Anna McKibben, PO Box 765, Quapaw, OK 74363 or by email at amckibben@quapaw-tribe.com.

Photos of Tribal Members Requested
Tribal Tax Administrator and traditional cook Debbie Wray is requesting photographs (copies ONLY or jpg files) of tribal members who have passed. She will be creating a memorial photo collage “cage” for the annual memorial dinner. Memorial photos are due to be turned in by May 1. The photos can be emailed to Debbie at dwray@qua-pawtribe.com. If you have any questions, please call her at (918) 674-2257. The annual memorial dinner is May 17 at noon in the community building at the powwow grounds.

If you are planning to run for a position on the Business Committee and would like your forum and/or photo in the newspaper, please submit your information no later than May 13 to Anna McKibben. You may hand deliver it to the tribal office or mail to Quapaw Tribe, Attention Anna McKibben, PO Box 765, Quapaw, OK 74363 or by email at amckibben@quapaw-tribe.com. If you have questions, please call Anna at (918) 533-6055.

Gaedtke Teaches “Kids N Clay”

Kids N Clay, a Youth and Parent Pottery Class was taught by Business Committee member Betty Gaedtke. Tribal member Lindsay Nida also helped teach. The class was open to youth ages 4-18 and their parents who wanted to participate. The class was designed to introduce Quapaw youth to the never ending possibilities of clay creations using traditional Quapaw pottery techniques. The four weekly classes were supposed to be limited to 15 participants, but there was such a huge response, Gaedtke opened the class to all youth who signed up. Thirty young tribal members attended the class. Students were taught various ways of making pottery into collectible pieces. At the end of the series, students will be given their pieces after they are fired, and a party will also be given. Snacks were also provided at each meeting. The class was made possible with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and co-sponsored by the Quapaw Tribal Library and the Quapaw Education Department.

Quapaw Gourd Club Formed
Several tribal members have recently created a Quapaw Gourd Club. Headed by Jim Greenfeather, the club will be available to carry flags at opening ceremonies for powwows and other events. Members will also be responsible for making gourd dishes. Members include Jim Greenfeather, Jeremy Olsen, Charlie Burtrum, Bob Stark, Bill Griffin, and Henry Ellick. To become a member, you have to be a Quapaw Tribal member. For more information, contact Jim Greenfeather at (918) 533-2391.
Social Services, from page 3

Wood vendors must have a W-9 on file before payment is made.

United States Median Income Limits

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Persons</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income Limits</td>
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<td>$64,000</td>
<td>$69,120</td>
<td>$73,960</td>
<td>$84,480</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income Verification Information

Income limits under the social services program are used to determine the status of the tribal member for IRS Form 1099. If you are not sure whether you are eligible, please contact the department at 918-542-1853 or the tribe’s website www.quapawtribe.com for more information.

Important things to remember:

All dates of service must be on or after January 1, 2015. We MUST HAVE W-9 ON FILE for all tribal members before we are able to issue any services. All Claims must be submitted within this funding cycle. As a reminder, the end of the year is also a final business day in December, at the close of business. Any claims submitted after this date regardless of the date of service will be returned to you and will be your responsibility.

You must be an enrolled tribal member of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma to be eligible to apply for and receive services. Tribal members will be eligible for services after date of enrollment, and all dates of service must be on or after January 1, 2015.

Due to the rapid growth of our tribe, the Quapaw Tribal Business Office has clarified the language used in the application that took effect January 1, 2012. All new enrollees to the Quapaw Tribal Roll, including infants enroll before January 1, 2012, and before his/her first birthday, are eligible for services provided by the Social Services/Higher Education Programs and Quapaw Tribal Member Insur- ance Plan 12 months from the date in which he/she was enrolled with the Quapaw Tribe. Please allow at least 30 days for your claim to be processed. Therefore, calling either the social services program or an accounting staff inquiring as to the status of your claim before the 30 days actually creates a setback for the department in processes and activities.

You must submit a separate application for each tribal member. Please do not put more than one person on one application. When doing this, it only takes longer to separate and determine the correct amounts for incomes.

If you do call inquiring about your balance, it is VERY IMPORTANT to have your ROLL NUMBER ready when you call. All claims must be sent through the U.S. mail or hand-delivered to the tribal office. No faxes, emailed, or copied information will be accepted.

You may find all this information along with other programs on our website at www.qua-pawtribe.com under tribal programs.

Penalties

In the event the Quapaw Tribal Social Services Committee determines that benefits or services under this program have been obtained or used improperly or fraudulently, the benefit or service will be discontinued, all monies already paid or due, and/or by requiring civil penalties, including but not limited to an ordering of the monies or value of services improperly paid or due, and/or by requiring civil penalties, including but not limited to an ordering of the monies or value of services improperly paid or due.

Actions relating to Benefits and Hearings

In the event the Quapaw Tribal Social Services Committee determines that benefits or services under this program have been obtained or used improperly or fraudulently, or in the event the QTC finds that benefits or services hereunder should be discontinued or reduced, notice of such a finding shall be provided to the affected recipient, and such recipient shall be afforded a reason- able opportunity to respond to the QTC findings. Under usual circumstances, a recipient will be allowed at least 10 days advance notice to respond before the QTC makes a final determination on the issue.

At its sole discretion and based upon the circumstances, the QTC may schedule a hearing, at which time the affected recipient may appear and present a response and evidence, or the QTC may make a final determination based upon the records and may issue a written response by the affected recipient. The QTC shall make a written decision on the matter setting forth the factual and legal basis for the decision and setting forth the penalty, if any, to be imposed. The QTC final decision shall be served on the recipient or their agent.

Each tribal member must have a notarized consent/release of information form on file for any tribal member, parent/legal guardian of a minor, or a tribal member unable to make transactions on their own behalf. These forms can be re- quested from the Quapaw Tribal Social Services office.

On all applications, please fill out all information. Phone numbers are required, so if we have any questions about the applica- tion, we can reach you in or- der to process your application quickly. Any incomplete applica- tions will be returned to you for completion before it is received back in our office.

Bills that are sent must be the complete bill and have all infor- mation on them, date of service, vendor’s name, address, phone number, tribal member’s name, account number and amount paid. No faxes, copies, scans, or due.

Appeal

In the event an applicant feels they have been denied services unfairly, they may request an appeal by writing to the Quapaw Tribal Social Services Committee within 30 days after the written deci- sion of the QTC is received by the applicant or recipient of benefits or services. All appeal decisions made by the Quapaw Tribal Social Services Committee shall be final.

This does not apply if the annual funds have been depleted.

ATEC Awards Scholarships to Tribal Members

The All Tribes Education Consortium (ATEC) awards scholarships to Native students. ATEC was formed in 2001 to provide scholarships to Native students to help them further their educations. To date, ATEC has awarded 249 scholarships totaling $75,000. The Quapaw Tribe has donated $1,000 to ATEC. Six Quapaw are members of ATEC.

Tribe members who received scholarships from ATEC are: Candice Byrd, Joshua Arnold, ConnorCraig, and Austin Headlee. ATEC is a local group with members from each of the local tribes in Northeast Oklahoma. To help fund their scholarship program, they hold a variety of fundraisers such as wild onion dinners, Indian tacos, garage sales, Christmas cookies, candy baskets, powwow concessions, Val- entine dinner and auction, and golf tournaments. For more infor- mation about ATEC, to become a member, or to donate, contact DeMaris Gaines, president at (918) 541-0372 or Grace Goodeagle at (918) 675-4028.
Page 6

EMS Department Featured in National Newsletter

The Office of Emergency Communications, a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has received an award for the first annual National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Interoperability Continuum (IC) Program. The award recognized outstanding contributions to improving EMS information sharing and interoperability across the continuum. The Quapaw Tribal EMS Department was among eight winners included in this year’s first annual award.

“Interoperability is essential to providing quality care and saving lives during emergencies,” said Rhonda Weaver. “As tribal EMS providers, we are committed to being part of the continuum so that our patients receive quality care with efficiency and effectiveness.”

The Quapaw Tribal EMS Department received an AAR/IP that included descriptions of, and recommendations for improving each gap identified. The AAR/IP outlined steps to address information sharing gaps, improving coordination, and providing education and training. The AAR/IP also included a description of the Tribal EMS Department's current level of interoperability, including its current position and vision for the future.

The award recognizes the Quapaw Tribal EMS Department for its efforts to improve interoperability and its commitment to providing quality care to tribal communities. The award also recognizes the Quapaw Tribal EMS Department's dedication to improving the continuum of care for its patients.
Attention tribal members! Do you think you know the individual above? He thinks he has changed so much over the years that no one will know who he is! If you can correctly identify him, you will win a surprise gift. The only way to win is to call Anna McKibben at (918) 533-6055; if there is no answer, leave your name, phone number, and answer to the question. DO NOT CALL THE TRIBAL OFFICE! The first correct caller will receive the prize!

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Buffero from page 6 and operated mostly on the property near Downstream. About two years ago, the tribe put a dozen buffalo in nearby land, and the herd has grown to about 80 head now. The first two buffaloes were recently processed by McFerron Meats in Nowata, Okla., and yielded 800 pounds of meat. The Quapaw Agriculture Program also has about 400 head of Black Angus Cattle, from which high-quality beef is just beginning to reach the fine-dining tables in Downstream Casino’s Red Oak Steakhouse. The Agriculture Program has four greenhouses that provide the casino restaurants with all-natural produce including heirloom tomatoes, squash, and a wide variety of fresh herbs.

“We’re becoming a pretty big operation,” said Chris Roper, director of the Quapaw Services Authority. “It feels very satisfying to see the first buffalo meat delivered, and the first beef coming in. We have taken a lot of pride in how we take care of these animals, and now we will take pride in how great the food is.”

Quapaw History Conference at Downstream

The first Quapaw History Conference was held at Downstream Casino in March. Speakers featured were tribal members Ar-dina Moore, Carrie Wilson, Billy Joe Proctor, and Rise Proctor. Other presenters were: Ann Early with her view on the Quapaw history and artifacts; Judge Morris Arnold spoke about Quapaw history; Dr. David Baird presented about Quapaw people; Kathleen DuVal showed a video called The Native Ground; and Dr. John House also provided his insight on the tribe.

Ross Garber, Ranny McWatters and John Berrey smoked cedar and hand washing prior to the traditional dinner. Approximately 40 people attended the conference.

Left, Debbie Griffin and Arline Moore attend the traditional feast during the Quapaw History Conference. Below, John Berrey, Ranny McWatters, and Ross Garber honoring speakers at the conference.

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Above, Substance Abuse employees and tribal members Steve Owens and Laura Elmer at Commerce Schools where they handed out pamphlets on drug prevention and giveaway items to students. The Substance Abuse Department sponsored a drug prevention day at Commerce for students to attend a seminar with a presenter who was a recovering methamphetamine addict.

Environmental Director Tim Kent received an award from the Environmental Protection Agency for his outstanding work for the tribe’s environmental program, including the tribe’s exemplary work on the Catholic 40 cleanup and Nelson property.

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